

# **2019 ANIMAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCE**

Friday, October 4, 2019  
Maricopa County Security Building  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor Ballroom  
222 N. Central Avenue,  
Phoenix, Arizona



## **ANIMAL ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE**

Presented by:

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Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine  
&

**Detective Heather Krimm**

Animal Cruelty Investigations  
Phoenix Police Department

Distributed by:

ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL  
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# Domestic Violence Case Presentations



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**Detective Heather Krimm  
#9262  
Animal Cruelty Investigations  
Phoenix Police Department**

## Animal Abuse Categories

- 1. Neglect/Abandonment
- 2. Physical
- 3. Sexual (ARS 13-1411)
- 4. Organized
- 5. Ritualistic
- 6. Emotional

# Confiscating Animals Alive or Deceased

- Seizure Paper Work
- Search Warrant
- Exigent Circumstances



# Animal Welfare Organizational Involvement

- Collaboration (MOUs/Contracts)
- Housing
- Care

# Veterinary Involvement Essential

- Veterinary Qualifications (Experience)
  - Communication
- Alive
  - Physical Examination
  - Diagnostics
  - Radiographs
- Deceased
- Necropsy (Animal Autopsy)
- Testimony (Expert Witness)

# Blunt Force Trauma Case



# Investigation

- Complaint from neighbors
- Owner surrender from Field Services
- Owner(s) young couple suspects –1.5 year old child in the home

## Signalment

- American Pitbull Mix, brown and white, female 4 month old

## Physical

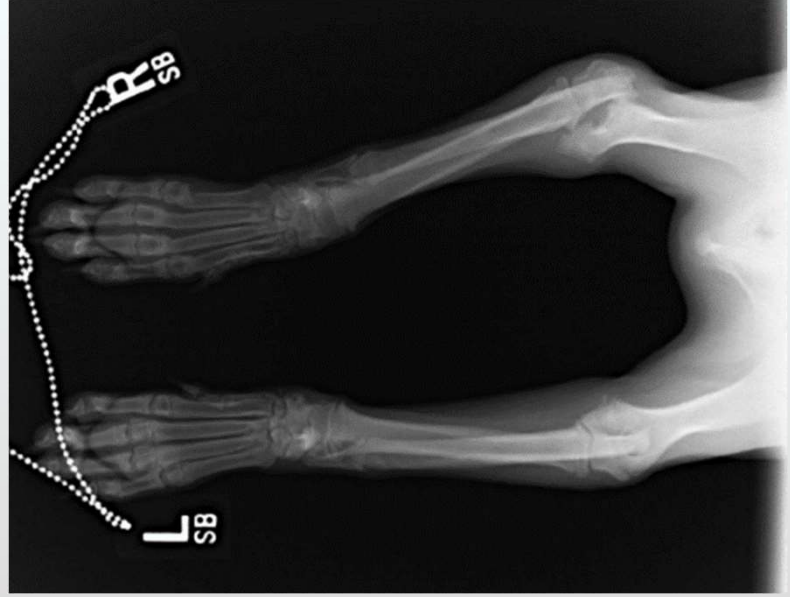
- Unable to stand or defecate for 3 days
- BCS 5/9
- Sternal but unable to rise in hind quarters
- Severe swelling right and left stifle, swelling right elbow
- Feces staining perineal area
- Suspected fractures involving pelvis, right humerus, and bilateral femurs

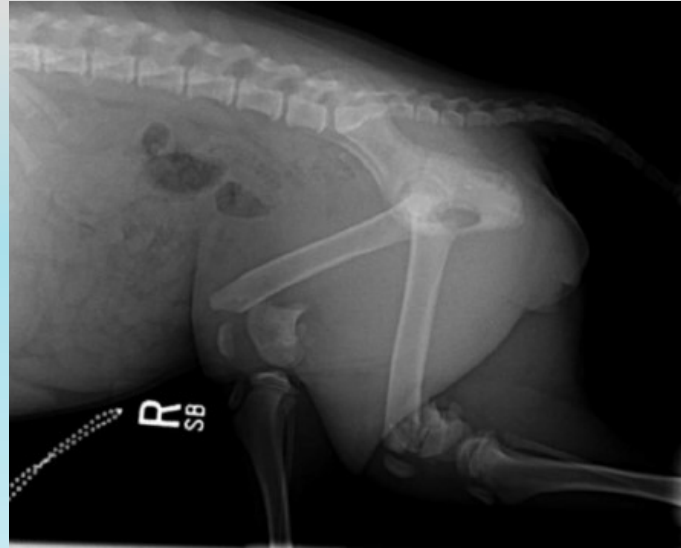
# Radiographs



## Radiographs

- Left Zygomatic Arch fracture with early callus formation
- Saltar-Harris type IV fracture through the right lateral humeral condyle with small amount of callus formation
- Healed fractures 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th distal metacarpal metaphysis in right front foot
- Fractures of the left 8th, 9th, and 10th ribs with moderate callus formation
- Saltar-Harris type I fracture left proximal femur
- Saltar-Harris type II fractures both distal femurs
- Possible pulmonary contusions







## Necropsy

- Due to the extent of the injuries the dog was humanely euthanized.



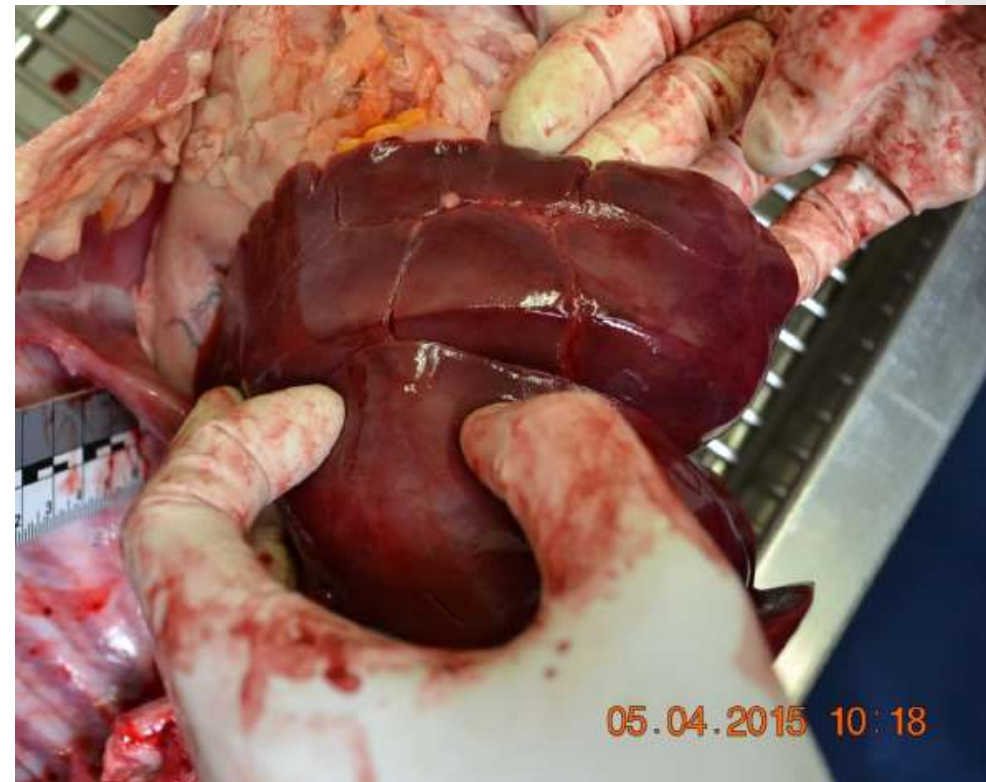
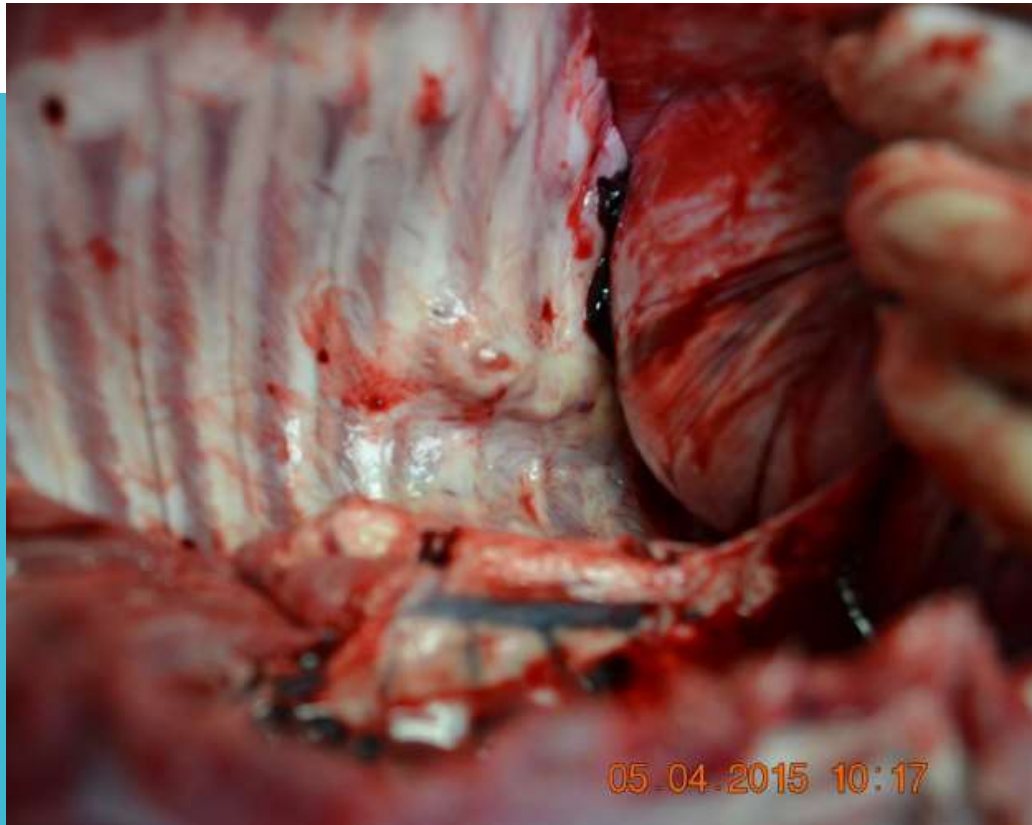










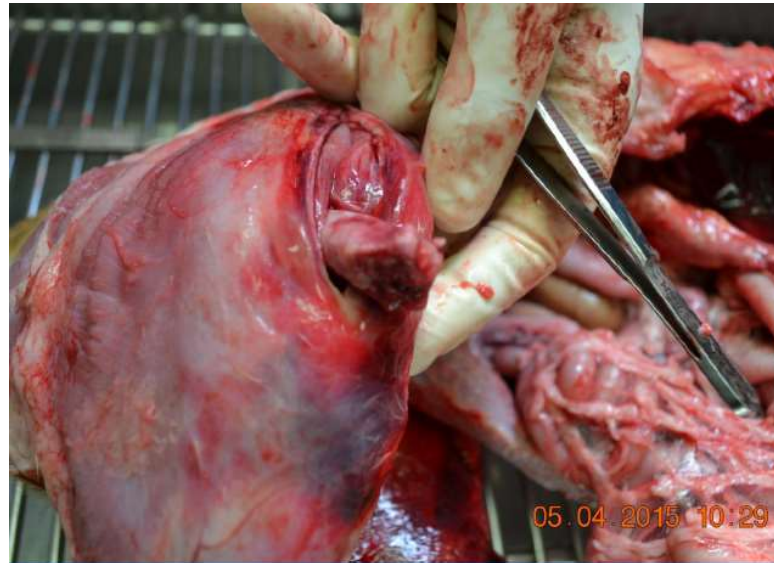


## Histology

- Skeletal Muscle:  
Multifocal acute hemorrhage consistent with acute bruising
- Lung/Liver/Kidney:  
Mild-moderate congestion without inflammation or infectious etiology

### Conclusions

- Twelve bone fractures in different regions of the body at different stages of healing.
- Fractures encompass bones in the face, the right front leg and foot, both hind legs, and multiple ribs in the chest wall.
- Fractures range from recent to completely healed
- Bruising (contusions) around the various fracture sites (stages)





# **Asphyxia**



# Manual Strangulation

## History:

- DV situation, dog witnessed to be manual strangled and swung around
- Dog placed in shallow grave in attempt to hide
- Dog exhumed by humane investigator

# Scene Photographs





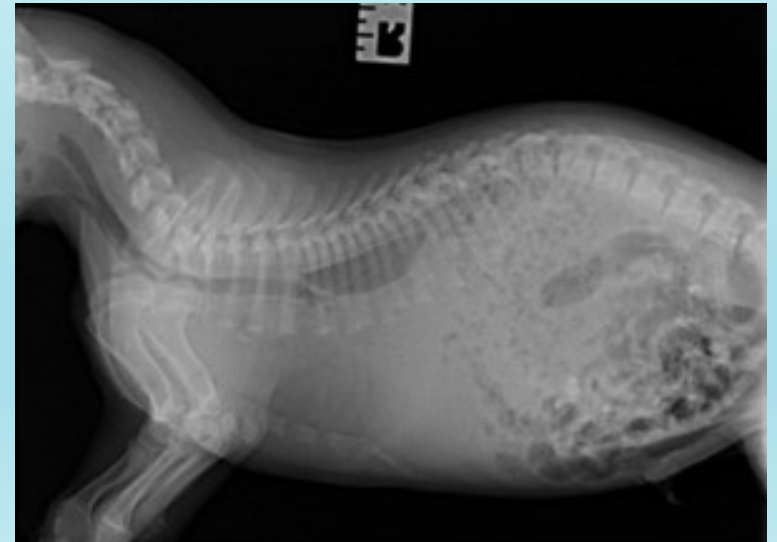




# Radiographs

No fractures observed

Lungs





# Necropsy







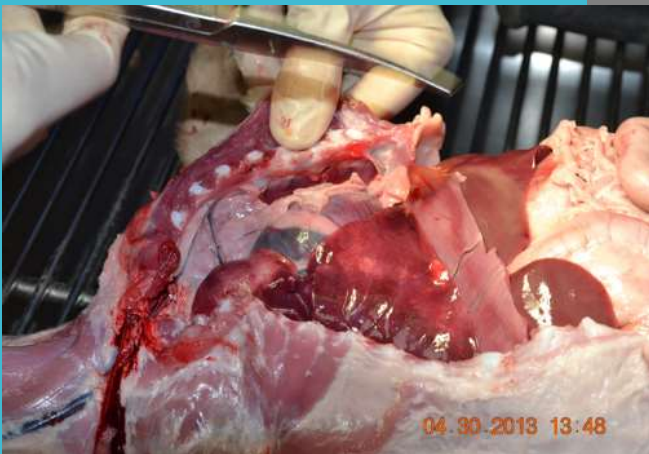






## Summary of Findings

- Laceration 7mm x 3mm on the left dorsal head
- Dried blood present in left ear canal
- Irregular red, dark blue/black contusion caudal to the left ear and left lateral neck caudal to the mandible
- Lungs diffusely dark red in color, thick and rigid on cut surface, with no fluid present, cranial lobes float in formalin, both caudal lobes sunk in formalin





# Animal Hoarding and Child Abuse



## Animal Hoarding

- Affiliation with Rescue Group
- Initial call  
Loud noises and smells
- Found Children  
Child abuse  
Horrid conditions  
Injuries
- Veterinary involvement  
After the fact



















- Questions?





# Conclusions

## Thoughts to Take Away

- Animal Abuse Is A Crime Like Any Other  
Approach and Investigate like any other  
Animals are considered PROPERTY  
Animals can't just be inventoried in a property room for years!!!
- Animals Can Assist With Other Investigations  
Obtaining a Search Warrant  
As Sources of Forensic Evidence